



U.S. Department of Justice
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District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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THREE CHARGED IN CONSPIRACY TO ILLEGALLY HUNT WILDLIFE IN KANSAS

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Dwight Floyd Krebs**, 51, and **Cheri Krebs**, 51, both of Scott City, Kansas, and **James John Jenkins**, 49, Russell Springs, Kansas, have each been charged with one count of conspiracy to illegally take, receive, transport, and process wildlife and one count of transporting and selling in interstate commerce wildlife with a market value in excess of \$350 that had been illegally taken. Dwight Krebs and Jenkins are also charged with two counts of using, or participating in the use of, an aircraft to harass and kill deer. Dwight Krebs is also charged with one count of using an aircraft to harass geese and one count of using an airplane to harass antelope.

The indictment alleges that from December 4, 2002, through December 20, 2003, Dwight and Cheri Krebs, while the operators of Krebs Ranch Wildlife and Trophy Hunts, a business located in the Scott City, Kansas, area, which offered big game guided deer and other wildlife hunts in Kansas, and James Jenkins, a ranch hand and a guide for the business, illegally used trucks, radios, cellular telephones and an airplane in these guided hunts. The indictment alleges that the Krebs advertised over the internet and customers paid \$2,500 per person for a guided hunt. The indictment alleges that the Krebs and Jenkins would illegally provide hunters with game tags that had been issued to other people. The indictment further alleges that the Krebs and Jenkins and their clients would hunt from motor vehicles, advise each other of the locations of wildlife using radios and the airplane, would illegally conceal wildlife in their vehicles, and transport the wildlife to locations they controlled for cleaning and processing. The indictment further alleges that the Krebs and Jenkins knew that the meat from the wildlife and the trophies and animal parts would be shipped in interstate commerce from Kansas to other States. The indictment further alleges that on December 5, 2003, Dwight Krebs flew the airplane over a flock of geese on a pond and activated a siren causing the geese to move away from the aircraft. The indictment further alleges that on December 5, 2003, Dwight Krebs flew the aircraft over a herd of antelope at an altitude of approximately 20-25 feet and activated a siren causing the herd to run from the airplane.

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If convicted, each face a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for one count of conspiracy and a maximum of five years for one count of transporting deer in interstate commerce that had been illegal taken. Dwight Krebs and James Jenkins each face a maximum of one year on each count of using an airplane to harass and kill deer. Dwight Krebs also faces a maximum of one year for one count of using an airplane to harass geese and one count of using an airplane to harass antelope.

Each made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kansas, on March 23, 2004. Each were release on an own recognizance bond. A motion hearing is set for April 29, 2004, in U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kansas, before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow and a trial is set for May, 26, 2004. This was a joint undercover investigation by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictment filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.